



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

**MEDIA RELEASE
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**Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney**

**Contact: Joseph N. Laplante
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1562 x 230**

**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

NASHUA CRACK RING INVESTIGATION OF "THA FAM"

Re: United States v. Angel Rosario, Angel Melendez, Angel Arroyo, Robert King, Lewis Clark, and Donna Whittington

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, DEA Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, Hillsborough County Attorney Marguerite Wageling, and Nashua Police Chief Donald Gross announced several convictions in the joint DEA - Nashua Police Narcotics Investigations Unit investigation of "Tha Fam." The following individuals have been convicted of federal crack distribution charges:

- **Angel MELENDEZ, a/k/a "Bebe,"** date of birth of 02/21/85, of Nashua;
- **Lewis CLARK, a/k/a "L," a/k/a "L Boogie,"** date of birth of 01/11/78, of Nashua;
- **Angel ARROYO,** date of birth of 02/02/84, of Nashua; and
- **Donna WHITTINGTON, a/k/a Donna HARTCOPF,** date of birth of 07/08/56, of Nashua.

MELENDEZ, CLARK, ARROYO and WHITTINGTON each appeared in U.S. District Court, waived the right to be indicted by a grand jury, and entered guilty pleas to informations charging them with distributing crack cocaine in Nashua during 2002 and 2003. MELENDEZ faces a potential sentence of 40 years imprisonment and a 5 year mandatory minimum sentence, while CLARK, ARROYO and WHITTINGTON face up to 20 years imprisonment. Each will be sentenced in U.S. District Court in June, 2003. MELENDEZ and CLARK are detained without bail pending sentencing.

Also facing federal charges resulting from the investigation are:

- **Angel L. ROSARIO, a/k/a “Macho,”** date of birth of 09/03/66, of Nashua, who has been detained without bail pending trial; and
- **Rob KING, a/k/a “Black,” a/k/a “Black Rob,”** date of birth of 06/02/74, of Nashua;

According to an affidavit filed in support of a Criminal Complaint* issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead on November 5, 2003, MELENDEZ, ARROYO and CLARK were members of “Tha Fam,” a group of individuals living in Nashua bearing tattoos reading “THA FAM” or “FAM 4 LIFE” who engaged in the street level distribution of crack cocaine in Nashua during 2002 and 2003. The affidavit states that photographs have been seized pursuant to several search warrants issued by the Nashua District Court depicting various members of “Tha Fam” exhibiting their “FAM” tattoos and flashing “gang signs” with their hands. The affidavit also states that Alberto Allende, aka “Machito,” who was convicted in the U.S. District Court of crack distribution on September 30, 2002, was also a member of the group.

The arrests resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Nashua Police Department’s Narcotics Investigations Unit and DEA’s Northern New England HIDTA Task Force. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDETF”), and Special Assistant United States Attorney Charles Keefe, formerly of the Hillsborough County Attorney’s Office in Nashua, and currently of the N.H. Attorney General’s Office.

** A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT IS ONLY AN ALLEGATION AND NOT PROOF OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT. AS IN ALL CRIMINAL CASES, EACH DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT.*

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